

Message Text

SECRET

PAGE 01 CAIRO 00984 181445Z
ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W
-----181638Z 080055 /53

R 181256Z JAN 77
FM AMEMBASSY CAIRO
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 734

S E C R E T CAIRO 0984

EXDIS

NEA-EGY FOR AMBASSADOR EILTS

E.O. 11652: GDS
TAGS: PFOR, EG, US
SUBJECT: VISIT OF COPTIC POPE TO US

REF (A) 76 CAIRO 8166 (B) 76 STATE 144361

1. EMBASSY LOCAL EMPLOYEE (GABRA) WHO IS COPT, TOLD EMBOFF JAN. 17 THAT HE RECEIVED VISIT JAN. 14 FROM DEAN OF COPTIC THEOLOGICAL COLLEGE IN CAIRO. LATTER ALSO SERVES AS POPE SHENOUDA'S PRIVATE SECRETARY. DEAN INFORMED GABRA THAT POPE WISHES HIS UPCOMING VISIT TO US TO BE "OFFICIAL" AND ASKED HOW POPE SHOULD GO ABOUT OBTAINING AN "OFFICIAL" INVITATION FROM USG. DEAN EXPLAINED HE PREPARED CALL AT EMBASSY HIMSELF BUT PREFERRED FIRST TO KNOW HOW EMBASSY WOULD REACT. GABRA, UNDERSTANDABLY EMBARRASSED AND NERVOUS BY THIS EFFORT TO USE HIM, REPLIED HE HAD NO KNOWLEDGE OF USG PROCEDURES. DEAN INSISTED THAT HE FIND OUT.

2. COMMENT: SINCE THIS SEMI-OFFICIAL COPTIC DEMAND PLACED OUR COPTIC EMPLOYEE IN DIFFICULT POSITION, HE HAS MENTIONED IT ONLY TO ONE EMBOFF. EMBOFF SUGGESTED THAT IF DEAN PERSISTS, HE MIGHT POINT OUT THAT IF AN EGYPTIAN CITIZEN WISHES TO MAKE AN "OFFICIAL VISIT," HE WOULD PRESUMABLY TRAVEL AS A
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PAGE 02 CAIRO 00984 181445Z

GOE REP AND REQUEST FOR AN INVITATION SHOULD, CONSEQUENTLY, COME FROM MFA. FURTHERMORE, EVEN IN UNLIKELY EVENT OF SUCH MFA REQUEST, IT WOULD SEEM UNLIKELY USG COULD OR WOULD ISSUE AN QUOTE OFFICIAL UNQUOTE INVITATION TO LEADER OF FOREIGN RELIGIOUS SECT, GIVEN OUR CONSTITUTIONAL SEPARATION OF CHURCH AND STATE. WE ARE INSTRUCTING GABRA TO

SUGGEST TO DEAN THAT IF HE WISHES TO PURSUE MATTER,
HE SHOULD SEEK APPOINTMENT WITH AMERICAN OFFICER (LOWRIE
OR GLASPIE), WHO WOULD THEN REPEAT ABOVE POSITION
TO HIM. PLEASE ADVISE IF YOU OR DEPARTMENT WISH
AMEND THESE INSTRUCTIONS.
MATTHEWS

SECRET

NNN

Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: Z
Capture Date: 01-Jan-1994 12:00:00 am
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: VISITS, RELIGIOUS LEADERS
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Sent Date: 18-Jan-1977 12:00:00 am
Decaption Date: 22 May 2009
Decaption Note: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Action: RELEASED
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment: 25 YEAR REVIEW
Disposition Date: 22 May 2009
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1977CAIRO00984
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: n/a
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: GS
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D770018-0792
Format: TEL
From: CAIRO
Handling Restrictions:
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1977/newtext/t19770143/aaaablfp.tel
Line Count: 68
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 558347d5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ACTION SS
Original Classification: SECRET
Original Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 2
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: SECRET
Previous Handling Restrictions: EXDIS
Reference: 76 CAIRO 8166, 76 STATE 144361
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 25-Jan-2005 12:00:00 am
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3575653
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: VISIT OF COPTIC POPE TO US
TAGS: PFOR, EG, US, (SHENOUDA III)
To: STATE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/558347d5-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Margaret P. Grafeld
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
22 May 2009
Markings: Margaret P. Grafeld Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 22 May 2009